

230 COMMENTARY ON MACAULAY'S
HISTORY

this tackingj but afterwards yielded.¹ In 1700, the report of the committee was read before the two Houses. The Commons brought in a bill for annulling-William's grants and vesting the forfeited property in trustees, to be divided according to the will of Parliament. There followed a long and bitter conflict between the two Houses, when a final rupture was avoided only by the withdrawal of the bishops, which secured the passing of the bill. On these questions there is a considerable amount of new evidence printed in the Calendar of the Manuscripts of the House of Lords.

The fear of the Anglo-Irish that the native Irish had been granted too favourable terms at Limerick, interference in the Irish administration by the English Parliament and Privy Council, and the commercial jealousy felt in England against possible rivalry from across St. George's Channel—these sentiments combined to foster the desire for a union, As early as November 1691 James Bonnell, Accountant General of Ireland, urged that a united England and Ireland* as it was in Cromwell's time, would be much better than a Parliament in Dublin. Such a union ' would take this kingdom out of the hands of the Irish and would take away all jealousy of it from the English, since it would seem then but to be a part of themselves as much as Wales/ ² Statesmen like Sir Richard Cox argued with

Englishmen

that it is your interest to unite and incorporate
us with
Englishmen for by that meanes the English
interest will be
always prevalent here, and the kingdome as
secure to you
as Wales or any county in England. Your taxes
will be
lessened when **we** beare part of the burden.
Your forces
will be augmented, especially at sea. , „ . All
our money
will still center at London, and our trade and
communica-

¹ Macaulay, VI, 2958-76 (xxv).

^z Portland MSS., iii 480.